

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

At paragraph [0003], page 3:

Chemical moieties that quench fluorescent light operate through a variety of mechanisms, including ~~fluorescent~~ fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) processes and ground state quenching. FRET is one of the most common mechanisms of fluorescent quenching and can occur when the emission spectrum of the fluorescent donor overlaps the absorbance spectrum of the quencher and when the donor and quencher are within a sufficient distance known as the Förster distance. The energy absorbed by a quencher can subsequently be released through a variety of mechanisms depending upon the chemical nature of the quencher. Captured energy can be released through fluorescence or through nonfluorescent mechanisms, including charge transfer and collisional mechanisms, or a combination of such mechanisms. When a quencher releases captured energy through nonfluorescent mechanisms FRET is simply observed as a reduction in the fluorescent emission of the fluorescent donor.

At paragraph [0021], page 9:

[0001] Many electron withdrawing groups are known in the art and can be used. Exemplary electron withdrawing groups include nitro, cyano, carboxylate, sulfonyl, sulfamoyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, biaryl, bialkenyl, bialkynyl, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di-substituted amino groups, or similar groups that do not substantially diminish quenching. In one embodiment R₁ is nitrogen and R₁₄ is a heterocyclic group as shown in formula (1a) below.